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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Bush urges Karamanlis to grab opportunity in Cyprus - Sabah
US: Sanctions on Turks to be removed if Greeks say 'no' -
Milliyet
FM Gul: Ankara against postponement of Cyprus referenda --
Hurriyet
Thousands of Turkish Cypriots say 'yes' - Sabah
Amb. Edelman: Turkey will eventually join the EU - Hurriyet
Cease-fire extended in Fallujah - Sabah
CIA admits fiasco on 9/11 - Hurriyet
Bush voices historic support for Israel - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS
AKEL says 'No' - Cumhuriyet
US shows stick to Greek Cypriots - Radikal
40,000 Turkish Cypriots rally for 'yes' - Zaman
Bush vows to finish the job in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Hugo Chavez says his heart is with Iraqi resisters - Yeni
Safak
Israel got what it wanted from US - Radikal
Bush supports Sharon plan - Yeni Safak
Bush supports Sharon plan, Palestinians furious - Zaman

BRIEFING

Cyprus: Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots rallied on the Turkish side of Nicosia in support of the Annan Plan for the reunification of Cyprus. An estimated 40,000 demonstrators waving the newly designed tri-color 'United Republic of Cyprus' flag called on Greek Cypriots to back the plan. Turkey's leading businessmen said in a full-page ad in Wednesday's editions of Turkey's national newspapers that a "yes" vote would help the north to rejoin the global economy. Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas will deliver a speech at the Turkish parliament today. He is expected to make the case against Annan Plan. Governing AK Party officials had said previously that deputies would not be forced to attend the Denktas meeting today. Prime Minister Erdogan does not plan to attend. Meanwhile, 'TRNC Prime Minister' Mehmet Ali Talat said he would agree with the Greek Cypriot proposal for postponement of the April 24 referenda only if the EU postpones the EU accession date for Greek Cyprus. Ankara also voiced opposition to any delay in the voting on the UN blueprint. Papers speculate that Washington will be considering ways for removing international sanctions on the Turkish Cypriots if Greek Cypriots reject the plan.

Ambassador Edelman on Cyprus, EU, Middle East: Ambassador Edelman said the US was 'doing its best' to see approval of the Annan Plan in the April 24 referenda in Cyprus. 'There is no alternative to the Annan Plan,' Edelman said, adding that if the Turks vote for the plan and the Greeks vote against it, the US, EU and the international community will know that the Turkish side has done its best for a solution. 'The US is trying to get a 'yes' from both sides,' Edelman noted. Responding to a question, Edelman said he did not expect the EU to put up new barriers in Turkey's path to EU membership. If Turkey keeps alive its reform process, Edelman said, the EU will eventually take accept Turkey. Ambassador Edelman also stressed that the US view of Turkey as a secular, democratic republic has not changed. The US

has no plan to define a particular role for Turkey in the Greater Middle East initiative, he emphasized. 'We cannot impose on anyone a particular choice of democracy, Edelman said, as every country will choose a model according to its own history and culture.'

Sezer: 'Moderate Islam' a backward model for Turkey: Papers report President Sezer's criticism of the US Greater Middle East initiative in a speech he delivered at the Military Academy in Istanbul on Wednesday. 'Moderate Islam might be a progressive model for other Islamic countries,' Sezer said, but for Turkey it would be a big step backward. He stressed that democracy cannot exist in a state controlled by religion, no matter whether such a state is fundamentalist or moderate. Dailies interpret Sezer's comments as a response to Secretary Powell's remark in which he referred to Turkey as an 'Islamic republic.'

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) President Bush's remarks on Iraq
- b) Cyprus

"Bush is determined in his Iraq policy"
Murat Yetkin observed in the intellectual/opinion maker "Radikal" (4/15): "President Bush made it clear that he has no intention of stepping back from his Iraq policy and the war against terrorism. He said that 'America is pursuing a counter-attack against terrorism and will continue to do so.' This is a clear manifestation of the US policy line. . . President Bush is using the Iraq policy to counter the criticism about his handling of 9/11. The Bush administration's thinking is like this: 'The US did not take preemptive action in Afghanistan because it didn't understand the magnitude of the problem -- it will not make the same mistake in Iraq. Iraq does not represent the whole of the US war against terrorism. It is only a part of it. In the end, the US will win this war.' . President Bush's approach shows how ambitious the US initiatives are, and how they may cause significant consequences around the world. Bringing freedom to the Middle East is a huge project, and it is not only limited to Iraq. Bush believes that the war in Iraq and the toppling of Saddam Hussein brought an historic chance to change the world. . It seems that the US is going to exert pressure in this region to the extent that it can. The US does not have any competitors in this area -- neither Russia nor the EU. Thus Turkey should pursue a policy not based on emotions, but one formulated with rationalism and caution."

"Yes, Yes, Yes"

Metin Munir wrote in the mass appeal-sensational Vatan (4/15): "Even if the Greek Cypriot side has nothing to lose in the event of a 'no' result in the referendum, the Turkish Cypriot side should still consider the benefits of a 'yes' vote. A strong 'yes' vote from the Turkish Cypriot side will serve Turkey's interests quite significantly, by enhancing Turkey's image in international public opinion and furthering its vision of EU membership. Moreover, a Turkish Cypriot 'yes' and a Greek Cypriot 'no' will serve the interests of Turkish Cypriots as well by legitimizing the de facto situation on the island. This in itself should be enough for the EU to reevaluate the EU-imposed embargo against the Turkish Cypriot side. . Denktas seems to be losing his common sense. But whatever he tries to do, the Turkish Cypriot people want to vote 'yes' and put the archaic thinking represented by Denktas behind them."

EDELMAN